DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 324 023 IR 053 301

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TITLE Bibliographic Instruction in Afro-American History: Selected Sources and the Use of "Library of Congress Subject Headings."
INSTITUTION Kent State Univ., OH. Univ. Libraries.
PUB DATE Apr 90
NOTE 7p.
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055) -- Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Access to Information; Bibliographies; *Black Culture; *Black History; College Libraries; Dictionaries; Encyclopedias; Higher Education; Indexes; *Information Retrieval; *Library Instruction; Library Skills; *Online Catalogs; *Subject Index Terms; Thesauri
IDENTIFIERS Kent State University OH; Pathfinders

ABSTRACT

This document was developed primarily in response to a bibliographic lecture in an upper-division Afro-American survey course that covers the American colonial period to the present. In addition to representative examples of reference works, bibliographies, bibliographic sources, and periodical indexes, a section is devoted to the proper use of "Library of Congress Subject Headings." Kent State University's online catalog, CATALYST, is part of the NOTIS system and uses a controlled vocabulary which is detailed in the "Subject Headings" volumes. Neither keyword nor boolean searching is available, nor does the system allow for related headings. Consequently, uninitiated users can experience frustration when the phrase "NO SUBJECT HEADINGS FOUND" appears of the screen. As detailed in Section A of this document, the use of the heading "Afro-American" is very useful for illustrating many of the nuances inherent in a structured and controlled vocabulary. A written description was incorporated into the bibliography because of the specific course, but the example has proven very useful in other bibliographic presentations for educating students in the subtitles of "Library of Congress Subject Headings." The other portions of the document are designed to acquaint students in Afro-American history with other major sources of information for their written projects. (Author)

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## ABSTRACT

Bibliographic Instruction in Afro-American History: Selected Sources and the Use of Library of Congress Subject Headings.

Geary, James W.

Kent State University Libraries Kent OH

April 1990

Language: English

Document Type: Guides (050); Bibliography (131)

Geographic Source: U.S.; Ohio

Target Audience: Practitioners; Librarians; Educators

This document was developed primarily in response to a bibliographic lecture in an upper division Afro-American survey course that covers the American colonial period to the present. In addition to representative examples of reference works, bibliographies, biographical sources, and periodical indexes, a section is devoted to the proper use of Library of Congress Subject Headings. Kent State University's online catalog, CATALYST, is part of the NOTIS system and uses a controlled vocabulary which is detailed in the Subject Headings volumes. Neither keyword nor boolean searching is available, nor does the system

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Descriptors: Academic Libraries; Access to Information; Blacks; Black History; Information Retrieval; Library Collections

Identifiers: Kent State University OH

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Reference Department

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY
History 31078

J. W. GEARY
Spring 1990

A) General Use of CATALYST for locating books on Afro-America:

1) For United States, use Afro-American; for other countries and racial studies use black.

2) Author search. If you are unsuccessful in finding an author's name through one approach (e.g., DuBois W), modify the search slightly (e.g., Du Bois W).

3) Title search. Most effective for locating a particular periodical title. Generally, for books and magazines, drop the initial article (e.g., Sable Arm, but not The Sable Arm).

4) Subject search. Often can prove to be the most complex and confusing. Example, black troops in the Civil War would be under "Afro-American Soldiers," not "Black Soldiers" or "Black Troops." But note difference between headings for "Afro-American soldiers" and: 1) "Afro-Americans--History", 2) "Afro-Americans--Biography", 3) "Afro-Americans--Civil Rights." In these last three instances, the use of the singular (i.e., "Afro-American") will not yield any results. Note further that "quotations, black" is not used as a subject heading, but "blacks--quotations" is used. Important to consult the latest edition of the Library of Congress Subject Headings for the most correct heading to use. Finally, notice the number of hyphens (i.e., one for a hyphenated word and two for subheadings).

B) Select Bibliography of Reference & Bibliographic Sources:

1) General Sources:

Afro-American Life, History, and Culture. Washington: United States Information Agency, 1985. (Docs. IA 1.27: Af 8).

Baskin, Wade and Richard N. Runes. Dictionary of Black Culture. New York: Philosophical Library, 1973. (Ref. E 185.96 .B33).

Bogle, Donald. Blacks in American Films and Television: An Encyclopedia. New York: Garland Publishers, 1988. (Ref. PN 1995 .9 .N4 B58 (1988).

Davis, Nathaniel, ed. Afro-American Reference: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Resources. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985. (Z 1361 .N39 D37).

Johnson, Ben. The Black Resource Guide. Washington: Ben Johnson, 1987. (Ref. E 185 .5 B565).

Low, W. Augustus and Virgil A. Clift, eds. Encyclopedia of Black America. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981. (Ref. E 185 .E55).

Miller, Randall M. and John David Smith, eds. Dictionary of Afro-American Slavery. New York: Greenwood Press, 1988. (Ref. E 441 .D53 1988).

Polski, Harry A. and James Williams, eds. The Negro Almanac: A Reference Work on the African-American. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc., 1989. 5th ed. ON ORDER. (Ref. E 185 .P55). Latest edition at Reference Desk.

2) Biographical Sources:

Logan, Rayford Whittingham and Michael R. Winston, eds., Dictionary of American Negro Biography. New York: Norton, 1982. (Ref. E 185.96 .L6 1982).

Richardson, Ben Albert and William A. Fahey. Great Black Americans (note: formerly titled Great Negro Americans). 2nd rev. ed. New York: Crowell, 1976. (Ref. E 185.96 .R5 1976).

Sammons, Vivian O. Blacks in Science and Medicine. New York: Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, 1990. (Ref. Q 141 .B58 1990).

Spradling, Mary Mace, ed. In Black and White: A Guide to Magazine Articles, Newspaper Articles, and Books Concerning More than 15,000 Black Individuals and Groups. Detroit: Gale Research, 1980. 3rd ed. (Z 1361 .N39 S655).

Who's Who Among Black Americans. Northbrook, IL: Who's Who Among Black Americans, Inc., 1988. 5th ed. (Ref. E 185 .96 .W52).

Young, Tommie Morton. Afro-American Genealogy Sourcebook. New York: Garland Publishers, 1987. (Ref. E 185 .96 .Y67).

3) Examples of Specialized Bibliographies:

Allen, Walter R. et al, eds. Black American Families, 1965-1984: A Classified, Selectively Annotated Bibliography. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. (Ref. E 185.86 .B523x 1986).

Center for Afro-American and African Studies. Black Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States: An Annotated Bibliography. New York: Greenwood Press, 1985. (Z 1361 .N39 B553 1985).

Davis, Lenwood G. The Black Family in the United States: A Revised, Updated, Selectively Annotated Bibliography. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. (Z 1361 .N39 D355 1986).

Herod, Agustina and Charles C. Afro-American Nationalism: An Annotated Bibliography of Militant Separatist and Nationalist Literature. New York: Garland Publishers, 1986. (Z 1361 .N39 H47 1986).

Joyce, Donald Franklin. Blacks in the Humanities, 1750-1984: A Selected Annotated Bibliography. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. (Z 1361 .N39 J69).

Willis-Thomas, Deborah. Black Photographers, 1840-1940: An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography. New York: Garland Publishers, 1982. (Ref. TR 139 .W55 1985).

_____. An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography of Black Photographers, 1940-1988. New York: Garland Publishers, 1989. (Ref. TR 139 .W55 1989).

Wilson, Joseph. Black Labor in America, 1865-1983: A Selected Annotated Bibliography. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. (Z 7164 .L1 W54).

C) Select Periodical Indexes:

Arts & Humanities Citation Index (Z 5931 .A78x).

Biography Index (Z 5301 .B5).

Index to Black Periodicals (Z 6944 .N39 I5).

Humanities Index (Ref. AI3 .R49a)

Social Sciences Citation Index (Z 7161 .S65)

NOTE: Subject heading terminology varies widely in periodical indexes. Therefore, remember to use different headings such as blacks, Afro-American, minoriites, etc. If you still experience difficulty in locating periodical information, ask a reference librarian for assistance. Depending on your topic, you may want to consider scheduling an appointment for an online search.

JWG
1/21/90